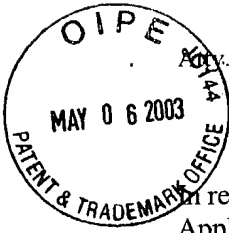


\$2825



App. Dkt. No: SYN-0155CON1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Re application of: Ronald Miller et al.

Application No.: 09/976,960

Art Unit.: 2825

Filing Date: 10/11/2001

Examiner: Phallaka Kik (Anticipated)

For: "DETAILED PLACER FOR OPTIMIZING HIGH DENSITY CELL PLACEMENT IN A LINEAR RUNTIME"

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: May 1, 2003


**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL**

- Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for this application.
- STATUS:** Applicant is other than a small entity.
- EXTENSION OF TERM:** The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.
- FEE FOR CLAIMS:** The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col.1)		(Col. 2)		(Col. 3)		LARGE ENTITY	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For		Present Extra		Rate	Addit. Fee
Total	63	Minus	20	=	43	x \$18 =		\$774
Indep.	14	Minus	3	=	11	x \$84 =		\$924
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim							+ \$280 =	\$0
Total							Addit. Fee	\$1,698

- FEE PAYMENT and DEFICIENCY:** Please charge Deposit Acct. 50-0574 the amount of \$1,698.00 for additional claims. If any additional extension and/or fee is required, also charge Account No. 50-0574.

Customer No. 35273  
Tel.: (408) 451-5907

  
**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**  
Jeanette S. Harms  
Reg. No. 35,537

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 1, 2003.

5/1/03  
Date  
  
Signature

RECEIVED  
MAY - 8 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 280C



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald Miller et al. Atty. Dkt. No.: SYN-0155CON1

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: DETAILED PLACER FOR OPTIMIZING HIGH DENSITY CELL  
PLACEMENT IN A LINEAR RUNTIME

Serial No. 09/976,960-2910 File Date: October 11, 2001

Examiner: Phallaka Kik (Anticipated) Art Unit: 2825

-----  
Date: May 1, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Initial Comments**

Claims 1-57 were cancelled and 58-77 were added in a first preliminary amendment dated October 11, 2001. Applicants respectfully request entry of new Claims 78-121 in this second preliminary amendment for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,960-2910. These new claims substantially correspond to the claims recited in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/437,996-8726 (Application 996). Application 996 was unintentionally abandoned due to inaction on the part of the previous counsel representing the Applicants (see attached Notice of Abandonment dated March 25, 2003, including an Interview Summary dated March 20, 2003). Applicants were unaware of this inaction until Application 996 was abandoned.

During a telephone conference on April 22, 2003, with the new counsel representing Applicants, Examiner Kik indicated that he would consider a new set of claims added to the present application, wherein this new set of claims (i.e. Claims 78-121)

SN: 09/975,960-2910

substantially correspond to the claims recited in Application 996.

Of importance, new Claims 78-121 include limitations, which Applicants believe distinguish such claims from the cited art in Application 996. Applicants have provided remarks herein to support Applicants' position.

Applicants greatly appreciate Examiner Kik's agreement to consider the new set of claims (see Claims 78-121 below). Applicants believe that the expertise of Examiner Kik, as demonstrated in Application 996, will be extremely beneficial in the examination of this new set of claims.